Transfer of 'Police' and 'Public Order' to Concurrent List

1145. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tranfer the subject of "Police" and "Public Order" from State List to the Concurrent List of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken to ensure protection of the States against internal disturbance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal before the Government to tranfer the subject "Police" and "Public Order" from the State List to the Concurrent List of the Constituion.

(c) Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario in the country is an ongoing proces in the Central Government, keeping in view its constitutional obligations. In the Process of discharging these obligations, the Central Government also interacts with the State Government and keeps itself posted in respect of prevailing situation in all the States and takes appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Insurgency In NE

1146. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent meeting with the Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States the Prime Minister ruled out declaring the insurgency in North-Eastern Region as a national problem.

(b) is so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this step has led to a very depresing effect amongst the people of the States of the NE region and if so, what steps Government would take to tackle the problem of cross-country terrorism indulged in this area on a very large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME

AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) When the Chief Ministers of North Eastern States called on the Prime Minister on June 21, 2000, the Prime Minister informed that both Centre and State Governments have to fight militancy and terrorism together. The State Governments have to strengthen their police set-up to make it more effective in tackling insurgency. Both police training and equipment would have to be improved

Prime Minister also informed the Chief Ministers that Centre has taken a number of steps to assist the State Governments in this regard. These include schemes of modernisation of police forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure, sanction of a scheme for fencing of remaining 2400 Km. of Indo-Bangladsh border at a cost of Rs.1334 crores, Sanction of 16 India Reserve Battalions and deployment of para-military forces.

Autonomy Issue of Assam

1147. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFARIS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has drawn to the statement of the Chief Minister of Assam, reported in 'The Deccan Chronicle' dated the 1st July, 2000 to the effect that granting autonomy to Assam and other NE States in the only viable solution to the problem of insurgency in the region;

(b) if so, whether Government agree to this viewpoint and would agree to this demand; and

(c) if answer topart (b) above in the nagative, the steps proposed to be taken to curb the insurgency in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government has taken various steps to bring law and order situation in the region under control. These include, *inter-alia*, deployment of para-military forces and army in the States, coordinated action by Army, Para-military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful activities